

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 1, 2010
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 25, 2010
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 4, 2010
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2009
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2009
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 498

**Introduced by Assembly Member Hayashi
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Lieu)**

February 24, 2009

An act to amend Section 5068 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 498, as amended, Hayashi. Vehicles: special interest license plates and decals.

Existing law authorizes private organizations, including veterans' organizations, to participate in special interest license plate programs in which the Department of Motor Vehicles issues license plates with a participating organization's distinctive design or decal, and specifies the various fees concerning the issuance, renewal of, registration of, and replacement of damaged or unserviceable plates and decals. Existing law permits any individual to apply for a veterans' organization special interest license plate and decal *an eligible person who is a former American prisoner of war to apply for special license plates for his or*

her vehicle and generally exempts that vehicle from registration and vehicle license fees (VLF).

This bill would authorize a former American prisoner of war (POW) who is otherwise eligible for a special license plate as a former POW to apply for a veterans' organization special interest license plate and decal, would exempt that former POW from the payment of *specified* fees under these provisions, and would authorize the surviving spouse of that former POW to retain the special interest license plate and decal subject to specified conditions. *The bill would also extend the exemption from the payment of those fees until the death of the surviving spouse.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5068 of the Vehicle Code is amended to
2 read:

3 5068. (a) (1) A veterans' organization may apply either
4 individually or with other veterans' organizations to meet the
5 application threshold set forth in Section 5060 for special interest
6 plates. An organization that meets the minimum application
7 requirement by applying with other organizations under this
8 subdivision shall be issued a regular license plate bearing a
9 distinctive design or decal approved under subdivision (a) of
10 Section 5060.

11 (2) Special interest plates issued under this section may be issued
12 in a combination of numbers or letters, or both, requested by the
13 owner or lessee of the vehicle, to be displayed in addition to the
14 design or decal authorized under paragraph (1), subject to Section
15 5105.

16 (b) In addition to the regular fees for an original registration, a
17 renewal of registration, or a transfer of registration, the following
18 fees shall be paid by individuals applying for a veterans'
19 organization special interest license plate or decal:

20 (1) Thirty dollars (\$30) for the initial issuance of the plates and
21 decals. The plates shall be permanent and may not be required to
22 be replaced.

23 (2) Thirty dollars (\$30) for each renewal of registration that
24 includes the continued display of the plates or decals.

1 (3) Fifteen dollars (\$15) for transfer of the plates to another
2 vehicle.

3 (4) Thirty-five dollars (\$35) for replacement plates, if they
4 become damaged or unserviceable.

5 (5) Ten dollars (\$10) for replacement decals, if they become
6 damaged or unserviceable.

7 (6) Forty dollars (\$40) for the personalization of the plates, as
8 authorized under paragraph (2) of subdivision (a).

9 (c) A former American prisoner of war who is otherwise eligible
10 for a special license plate pursuant to Section 5101.5 may apply
11 for a veterans' organization special interest license plate and decal
12 in lieu of the special license plate issued pursuant to Section 5101.5
13 and shall be exempt from the payment of fees *pursuant to*
14 *subdivision (a) of Section 9105, the fees* required under subdivision
15 *(b), and the license fee pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 10783*
16 *of the Revenue and Taxation Code*. The surviving spouse of the
17 former American prisoner of war may retain the special interest
18 license plate and decal issued under this section and is subject to
19 the conditions set forth in Section 5101.5. *The exemptions from*
20 *fees provided in this subdivision shall extend until the death of the*
21 *surviving spouse.*